

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EPAP, ETRD, MY

SUBJECT: TIN -- ELECTION OF ITC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

REF: A) LONDON 3980

B) STATE 58413

1. THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) INTERIM COMMITTEE RESUMED AT 4:00 P.M. MARCH 12 IN TRUNCATED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED WITHOUT DEBATE REAPPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY BUFFER STOCK MANAGER. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUFFER STOCK SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE DEFERRED TO APRIL 1 AND 2. NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL INTERIM COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 3.

2. CONTACT GROUP ON THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP REPORTED THAT BECAUSE OF INTENSE COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS, NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE EXCEPT ON DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCEDURE FOR THE CONTACT GROUP'S WORK. MICHAEL JOHNSON (UK) CONSUMERS REPRESENTATIVE, NOTED IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE CONTACT GROUP TO SEEK INFORMAL EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE FROM EACH DELEGATION, ON AN URGENT BASIS BEFORE NEXT INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING (I.E. BY MAY 3). JOHNSON PROPOSED THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INTERVIEWS WITH "HEADS OF DELEGATIONS" OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. CONTACT GROUP CHAIRMAN AGIDI, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION AND KEITH BUCK (CANADA) SUPPORTED SCHEME WHILE OTHER DELS REMAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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SILENT. AGIDI (WHO AT TIME WAS SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF

INTERIM COMMITTEE)SUGGESTED THAT INTERVIEWS TAKE PLACE IN HIS OR IN JOHNSON'S OFFICE, BUT NOT ON ITC PREMISES. JOHNSON MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT ROLE OF CONTACT GROUP WAS TO DETERMINE LINE UP BEHIND CANDIDATES, NOT TO NEGOTIATE NEXT CHAIRMANSHIP.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE A BREAK IN THE IMPASSE UNDER WHICH PRODUCERS CAN BLOCK ALLEN AND CONSUMERS, LAI; ALTHOUGH, CERTAINLY THERE IS MUCH MORE UNITY AMONG PRODUCERS AND THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE. AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME MIGHT BE SOME INTERIM APPOINTMENT SOLUTION SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN REF B. THE WORST WOULD PROBABLY BE CONTINUATION OF THE IMPASSE, WITH BOTH ALLEN AND LAI EVENTUALLY DUMPED FOR AN UNKNOWN.

4. USREP WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A LESS FORMALIZE PROCEDURE THAN THE CONTACT GROUP "INTERVIEW". ALTHOUGH OFF-THE-RECORD AND NON-BINDING , OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE THE US IS "NEW BOY" AND WILL BE A POWERFUL FORCE IN THE 5TH AGREEMENT, OUR POSITON WILL BE QUICKLY KNOWN. THE RISK IS THAT WE COULD FURTHER POLITICIZE THE SITUATION WITHOUT REALLY INTENDING TO DO SO.

5. BEST COURSE DURING THE INTERVIEW WOULD SEEM TO BE LOW KEY, BASED LARGELY UPON CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED IN REF B, BUT WITH OPTIONS KEPT OPEN.

ARMSTRONG

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